

What is claimed is:

1. A navigation system comprising:

map information acquiring means for acquiring map information arranged in a hierarchical structure classified depending on coverage of a road map;

input means for specifying a bypass region to bypass traffic of a vehicle in response to an input operation; and

detour searching means for searching a route that detours the bypass region when the bypass region input by the input means is included within the coverage of the map information belonging to a hierarchy acquired by the map information acquiring means.

2. The navigation system according to Claim 1, wherein the input means specifies the type of a route to be detoured in response to the input operation.

3. The navigation system according to Claim 2, wherein the detour searching means changes a search starting point depending on what kind of route is specified when making an automatic search for a detour.

4. The navigation system according to Claim 1, wherein further comprises display control means for highlighting the bypass region specified by the input means on a predetermined display unit.

5. The navigation system according to Claim 4, wherein the display control means highlights the bypass route specified together with a detour searched by the detour searching means.